

## A NEW EPIPHYTIC ORCHID FROM DORRIGO, N.S.W.

*Cleisostoma gemmatum*, sp. nov.

By THE REV. H. M. R. RUPP, Raymond Terrace, N.S.W.

*Planta epiphytica, parvissima cum radicibus acriis. Caulis brevis cum foliis circiter quinque, angustissimis, fere falcatis, 2-3½ cm. longis. Flores 4-8 in racemo. Sepala ovata, acuta, fere 3 mm. longa, pallido-viridia cum marginibus purpureo-fuscis, et sæpe supra purpurea linea. Petala vix 2 mm. longa cum marginibus prominentibus, purpureo-fuscis. Labellum album; lamina brevissima; lobus medius obtusus crassusque cum maculis aurantiacis, lobi laterales falcati. Calcar 3 mm. longum cum membrana interiore angustissima ciliata. Columna rufopurpurea, brevis cum dentibus brevissimus. Pollinia magna.*

*Cleisostoma gemmatum*, sp.n.

A, Plant growing on twig, natural size; B, side view of flower, enlarged; C, column, greatly enlarged.

A small epiphyte resembling *C. Beckleri* F.v.M., but more leafy and the root-system more aerial. Leaves up to 5 in number, narrow-linear and almost falcate, acute, 2 to 3½ cm. long. Flowers

4 to 8 in the raceme. Sepals ovate but acute, nearly 3 mm. long, pale green with purplish-brown margins, and often a purplish median line on the back. Petals hardly 2 mm. long, with very prominent purplish-brown margins. Labellum white; lamina very short; mid-lobe obtuse and thick, with orange blotches; lateral lobes broadly falcate. Spur as long as the sepals, with a narrow ciliate membrane inside the orifice. Column bright reddish-purple (except the white stigmatic plate), short, with very short teeth. Pollinia rather large, in two pairs on ribbon-like caudicles.—Dorrigo, N.S.W., Mrs. W. J. Harrigan, October, 1937.

Flowering racemes were sent to me by Mr. G. E. Glissan, of Balgowlah, near Manly. At his request Mrs. Harrigan forwarded a complete plant. I have no doubt at all that this little orchid is new to botanical science. The plant itself, when not in bloom, might be mistaken for *C. Beckleri*; while the tangle of aerial roots suggests affinity with *C. tridentatum*; but as will be seen from the description, the flowers are quite unlike those of either species. Under the magnifier they are veritable jewels of the floral world, the brilliant reddish-purple of the column in particular providing an effect without parallel in other Australian *Cleisostomas*. For this reason I have chosen the specific name which may be translated into plain English as "jewelled."

At the same time, Mrs. Harrigan sent to Mr. Glissan a two-flowered raceme—and subsequently a single leaf—of a *Sarcophytus* from the same locality. This is very suggestive of a natural hybrid between *S. olivaceus* Lindl. and *S. spatulatus* Rogers; but in the absence of further material I am doubtful of its status. In general appearance it resembles a small *S. olivaceus*, but the lateral lobes of the labellum are prominently spatulate, and there are bright purple splashes on the dorsal protuberance of the mid-lobe.

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#### EXCURSION TO FRANKSTON AND LANGWARRIN

This excursion took place on Saturday, October 9, and was attended by 17 members. From Frankston we followed the railway line to the sand pits, near Langwarrin. A fair number of orchids were in flower, one being a large specimen of *Thelymitra aristata*, which was greatly admired. From the sand pits we walked across country to the Scouts' jamboree ground, where more orchids were found. *Thelymitra antennifera* ("Rabbit's ears") was in hundreds, and, the day being warm, fully out in flower. The Tea-trees, *Leptospermum scoparium* (some pink-flowering varieties) and *L. laevigatum*, and Wedding Bush, *Ricinacarpus pinifolius*, were in full bloom—a glorious sight. We had a very pleasant outing and noted about 17 species of orchids in flower.